News from Iwate's Reconstruction

Ganbaro, Iwate! Let's stick together, Iwate!



Volume 110

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The news from Iwate as it moves toward reconstruction

We are deeply grateful for the heartwarming encouragement and support received from both within and outside of Japan in the aftermath of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, which struck on March 11, 2011. The precious bonds created during this time will always be cherished.



Kamaishi Rugby World Cup: Encouraging Children

Former New Zealand Rugby Star Dan Carter Kamaishi

On July 17th, 2016 (Sun), a meet-and-greet event called Dan Carter Charity for All was held at the construction site for Kamaishi Unosumai Reconstruction Stadium (preliminary name).

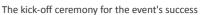
This event was held as a part of the Children's Self-Support Program, which provides help for children who experienced the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. The special guests were Dan Carter, who helped New Zealand become the first team to win two Rugby World Cups in a row at the

2015 tournament in England, as well as Coach Katsuyuki Kiyomiya of the Rugby Top League team Yamaha Motor Jubilo. They visited the Reconstruction Stadium, which is currently under construction for the 2019 World Cup. A talk session and a rugby practice for the local children and residents was also held.



Children who were given a rugby ball by Dan Carter

"Overcoming adversity is the key to success. You have to be strong. This stadium will rival anywhere else l've ever played. I want to come back in three years, once it's been finished," said Carter, who had experienced the 2011 earthquake in New Zealand. Carter performed the kick-off ceremony in celebration for the 2019 World Cup, while participants released balloons into the sky to pray for the success of the event.



Swimming season is here! Special one-day beach opening in Ofunato

With the opening of Funado Beach in Osanaimachi, Kuji on July 10th, 2016 (Sun), swimming season has officially begun along the coast.

Similar to last year, 8 beaches from Hirono to Otsuchi opened up for the season.

On the 24th (Sun), in Okirai (Sanrikucho, Ofunato), Nami-ita Beach

opened up to the public for a day. This was the first time in 5 years since the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami hit the area.

This was organized by Junior Chamber International Ofunato, in hopes of bringing back opportunities for children to experience the beach. Roughly 200 people visited the beach on this day. There were also fishing industry tours to learn about aquaculture farming, boat rides, a barbecue, and a watermelon-splitting event.



Beaches on Iwate's Sanriku Coast

Edogahama Beach in Taneichi Seaside Park (Hirono)
Jodogahama Beach (Miyako)
Funado Beach (Kuji)
Fujinokawa Beach (Miyako)

Samuraihama-Iwaba Swimming Pool (Kuji)

Fudai Beach (Fudai)

Jodogahama Beach (Miyako)
Fujinokawa Beach (Miyako)
Aragami Beach (Yamada)
Kirikiri Beach (Otsuchi)







Diving Service opens at Okirai Bay Ofunato

On July 10th, 2016 (Sun), scuba diving services were started at Okirai Bay in Sanriku, Ofunato by the Okirai Diving Club. The club is composed of members from diving shop Michinoku Diving Rias and local fishermen.

Hiroshi Sato, who works at the diving shop, started this diving service with the local fishermen after they built a bond of trust with each other. This was through several relief efforts after the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, such as clearing the debris in the ocean with volunteer divers from all across the country.

Typically, people are not allowed to get close to aquaculture equipment, as they are regarded as a sort of "holy site," but the Okirai Fishery's accreditation provides the unique opportunity to look at the equipment used to grow scallops, oysters, and sea squirts from underwater.

There are high hopes for diving along Sanriku, an area that has recovered from the tsunami damage and is now overflowing with the will to live. It is expected to be a new way to bring in tourists.



Divers in the Okirai Bay (Photo: Michinoku Diving Rias) Contact: Michinoku Diving Rias 🖀 0192-47-4677

Many young people are diligently helping the affected area of Sanriku move toward a full reconstruction. The section "People for Sanriku's Future" introduces these young people and their powerful feelings.

Part 59 introduces Mr. Yutaka Kibihara efforts.

He moved to Iwate for university. While pursuing his studies, he also spent a large amount of time in the mountains tracing bear tracks and making the rounds among the mountain villages. He was captivated by what lwate had to offer, and decided to stay in the prefecture after graduation. He gained experience working at children's facilities and organizations in Iwate, and in April 2013, he was involved in town rebuilding in Kamaishi. In April 2015, he established Sanriku Komasha to revitalized local horse culture and take care of children.

Supporting children through local culture

Kamaishi's local culture is all about living harmoniously with horses. Since long ago, horses have been used in Kamaishi for agriculture and transporting wood, as there are many mountains, but very few flat lands. This is where Sanriku Komasha comes in. By rejuvenating this part of local culture, it aims to increase eco-tourism and help children who experienced the disaster.

"We need to support children who are still

Casualties & Damage in Iwate As of June 30, 2016

▶ Human casualties/deaths: 4,672; Missing: 1,123

▶ Buildings destroyed (residences only, total/partial): 26,075 To make a donation to aid in Iwate's reconstruction:

www.pref.iwate.jp/fukkounougoki/dayori/news/011100.html

Sanriku Railway - with Stylish Attendants: Kamaishi Ofunato A Lunch and Sweets Train

During the 8 days from July 30th (Sat) to August 15th (Mon), a retro train called the "Lunch & Sweets Train" will run on Sanriku Railway's South Rias line between Kamaishi Station and Sakari Station.

The train will be staffed by stylish attendants wearing yagasuri-patterned kimono and hakama, calling back to a nostalgic time in Japan's history.

On the train, people can enjoy the "SWEETS BOX," which is a lunch box set consisting of the Sansanroku Lunch Box from Mukushi Shoten in Otsuchi, and a raspberry fromboise and Sanriku galette from Kameyama in Kamaishi. Chef and owner of

Japanese restaurant Sanpi Ryoron, Masahiro Kasahara, oversaw the lunchbox menu.

ODays of operation:

7/30.7/31.8/6.8/11-15 OTime: Departing from Kamaishi 12:05

-> Arriving in Sakari 12:58

Attendants dressed up in stylish modern clothes OFare: Lunch&Sweets 2,500 yen (including drink)

+ reserved seat cost 500 yen + ticket fare

(ex. : Kamaishi Station - Sakari Station Adult One-way 1,080 yen)

OMust reserve 3 days in advance

OContact: Sanriku Railway - Kamaishi Station 🛱 0193-22-1616 (9:00~17:00)



Sanriku Komasha Director

Yutaka Kibihara



children!!"

living in emergency temporary housing. Interacting with horses can change children not only tangibly on the outside, but also from within the mind and soul. I saw that horses had this amazing power, and so I built a place for kids to come see horses any time. I think we have to work together to set up something that will nurture today's children, who hold the burden of Kamaishi's future on their shoulders," said Kibihara on supporting children by the means of local culture.

Culture that rivals that of other regions

He also spoke about how as the regional culture is restored, there will be lots of great things to see. "Aside from the local children, people from both within and outside of the prefecture come to see the horses. There's an old kitchen furnace here, so people can also see the way people lived a long time ago. The facility brings people in, with its main attraction being horses. I want both local children and city-dwellers to gain happiness from experiencing a culture that's deeply rooted in the region." The organization is hoped to support activities for children and send out information about the local community to the world.

Thank you for all your support!

As of June 30, 2016

(photo: Sanriku Railway)

Donations for survivors: Around ¥18.49874 billion (93,530 donations) Donations for reconstruction projects: Around ¥19.77718 billion (7,791 donations) Iwate Learning Hope Fund donations: Around ¥8.48074 billion (17,971 donations)

* This fund is to assist in the study and daily life of affected children by encouraging sport and study activities.

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